

sheriff (reserves) and on Youngstown City Council for the 1st Ward. In early years, he had been employed at Packard Electric, Ohio Fast Freight, and Stallworth Real Estate and Construction Co. Inc. Artis was also very instrumental in getting the Covelli Center built and opening up Federal Street to through traffic.

In addition to his many jobs and positions, Artis found time to volunteer on many boards and other organizations important to Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.

He leaves to carry on his legacy and cherish his beloved memories, his wife, the former Annie L. Spooner, whom he married March 15, 1962; four children, Artis Gillam Jr. of Cleveland, Arnold Gillam Sr., Adrienne (Rodney) Davis and Andrea Gillam, all of Youngstown; seven grandchildren, Tamica Gillam, Artis Gillam III, Arnold (Hannah) Gillam Jr., Rodney Davis, Jr., Alexis Gillam, Andre (Shalena) Davis and Denzel Davis; and 15 great-grandchildren, Andre Davis Jr., Amire, Amira and Alena Davis, Armani Johnson, Talaya and Reggie Dunlap, Artis IV, Nariah, Gianna, Markez, Amiah, Kayel, Amari, and Kenna Gillam. He also leaves six sisters-in-law, Juanell (Sylvester Sr.) Patton, Janice Burroughs, Joyce Dean-El, Linda Jenkins, Brenda Boudreaux and Margie Ann Leonard; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Homer Jenkins, L. V. Jenkins and Douglas Gillam; his sister-in-law, Shirley Gillam; his brother-in-law, Charles Spooner; and his favorite uncle, Ruben Edmondson.

There is no doubt that Councilman Gillam was a giant in Youngstown and dedicated his life to our community. I was very proud to represent the great people of Youngstown alongside Mr. Gillam. My deepest sympathies go out to Mr. Gillam's family and to all whose lives he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was notified that I was exposed to COVID-19 and am following quarantine guidelines set by the CDC. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240 (HR 8900); and YEA on Roll Call No. 241 (HR 5758).

REMEMBERING REVEREND JAMES L. NETTERS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a giant of the Memphis community—the Reverend James LaVirt Netters Sr., who passed on Sunday at the age of 93. Reverend Netters served more than 60 years as the senior pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Westwood. Reverend Netters graduated from the historic Booker T. Washington

High School, which produced other noted alumni such as civil rights activist Maxine Smith and civil rights attorney Judge Russell B. Sugarmon Jr. He went on to graduate from LeMoyne-Owen College, a historically Black college. He was a Memphis City Schools teacher when he responded to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s clarion call for jobs and freedom and attended the 1963 March on Washington. He returned to Memphis galvanized to address integrated public accommodations, getting arrested, like Rosa Parks, and encouraging other ministers to join him, in sitting in whites-only sections of buses in demonstrations that resulted in desegregating the system. Determined to make a difference in the lives of Black people, he turned to electoral politics. He was one of the first three Black City Council members sworn into office in January 1968, along with the Reverend J.O. Patterson and Fred Davis, and worked tirelessly behind the scenes during the Sanitation Workers Strike that led to the assassination of Dr. King that year. After his Council service, he was an administrative assistant and served as a community liaison for Memphis Mayor Wyeth Chandler from 1972 to 1975. He later received a master's degree and a doctorate in Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary, where a faculty chair in Rhetoric and African American Studies is named in his honor. Reverend Netters was a stand-up pastor whose friendships and influence knew no bounds. He was the longest-serving pastor of a single church in the City of Memphis and was respected for his moral authority. Other pastors and ministers held him in high regard for his leadership, activism, commitment to ministry and the community, and his focus-driven life. Noted for his work outside the church as well, Reverend Netters served on the board and as chairman of the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division. MLG&W's business center building is named in his honor, as is a portion of Third Street—James L. Netters Parkway. An open-minded leader and a man of impeccable character, he respected all people; there was not a prejudiced bone in his body. He reached across all religious, gender, political and racial groups as a respected bridge that brought all of Memphis together. I appreciated his friendship and his solid support, especially during my early runs for Congress. I was honored to take him as my guest to the annual Congressional Prayer Breakfast where he was pleased to meet with President Obama. I express my profound condolences to his family and to the Mount Vernon Baptist Church community he served so well. He led an exemplary life and will be missed.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH "JOE" ALEXANDER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Joseph "Joe" Alexander, a pivotal Northern Virginia leader who passed away peacefully at home on August 30, 2020 at the age of 90.

Joe Alexander was born in Pittsburgh, PA on December 21, 1929 to Celia and Milton Alexander. When Joe was young, the family

relocated to Northern Virginia where Joe would spend his life. In 1956, Joe married the love of his life Davina, and together they raised their two daughters Cathy and Cheri.

Joe dedicated his life to bettering the community in which he grew up by serving others. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the Air Force where he was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Afterwards, Joe returned to the Franconia section of Fairfax County where he owned and managed Franconia Hardware. He was urged by other local business owners to run for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and began his first term in office in 1964. He served a total of 32 years, finally stepping down when his 8th term ended in December 1995.

During Joe's years of service on the Board, he was affectionately known as "Pothole Joe" because no level of constituent service was too small for him to personally address. He shaped the transformation of his district from one of un-regulated gravel pits to an area known for its vibrant planned communities.

Joe believed that an integrated transportation network was critical to the continued growth and prosperity of the region. In 1964, Joe was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission on which he served for 25 years representing our region in mass transit systems such as WMATA, VRE, and the Fairfax Connector. Working with others he was instrumental in transforming four separate privately owned bus companies into the Metrobus system. In recognition of his immeasurable contributions to public transportation, the Joe Alexander Transportation Center (commonly referred to as the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station) was named after him, and in 2008 after serving as its Chair, Joe was inducted into the American Public Transportation Association Hall of Fame.

Public service was at the core of who Joe was. In addition to his contributions in transportation and community planning, Joe was a volunteer with the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department. His love for his community and its history led him to donate his time as a volunteer and a Board Member with the Franconia Museum. Joe also had an adventurous spirit—he loved to travel, enjoyed good food and wine, and football. But above all Joe was a dedicated and loving husband, father and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Joseph Alexander. His leadership and commitment to public service helped lay the foundation for the county and he will be missed by all who knew him. I also extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 64 years, Davina; his daughters, Cathy Stevens (Ed) and Cheri Roth (Rich); and granddaughter Stephanie Roth. May his memory be a blessing.

COMMISSIONER MARY HODGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Hodge, a former Colorado State House Representative, State Senator, current Adams County Commissioner, and a great Coloradan.

Commissioner Hodge was born and raised on the eastern plains, an area she has well-represented for decades. Throughout her tenure serving the State of Colorado, Commissioner Hodge has held numerous positions. Commissioner Hodge was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2000 where she served two terms. She then was elected to the Colorado State Senate and finished her second term in 2016. During her time in the Colorado State Legislature, Commissioner Hodge held several leadership roles, including Chair of the House Local Government Committee, Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Budget Committee, and Chair of both the Rural Economic Development and Early Childhood Development Joint Legislative Interim Committees. As a legislator she championed legislation supporting whistleblower protections for local government employees; Newborn Heart Defect Screening Pulse Oximetry; and the completion of Fitzsimons Veteran Community Living facility.

In 2016, Commissioner Hodge was elected to serve as the District 5 County Commissioner for Adams County, and in 2018, she served as Chair of the Board. As Commissioner, she maintained an equitable trajectory of projects for the eastern plains, the most notable being the pioneering of an innovative new gravel road mixture and technique. Another notable achievement driven by Commissioner Hodge was the designation of the new Colorado Air and Space Port. She was critical in championing this project, garnering political support and refining Adams County's proposal to expedite the comfort and trust of their partners at Denver International Airport.

While our state has been blessed with capable leadership throughout its history, few rise to the caliber and reputation of Commissioner Hodge. I wish Commissioner Hodge all the best in retirement and send gratitude for her service to the Adams County community and the great state of Colorado. I thank her for her service.

HONORING MICK GLEASON ON HIS
RETIREMENT FROM THE KERN
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kern County Supervisor and U.S. Navy Captain (ret.) Michael "Mick" Gleason. After 35 years of service to his country and community, Mick is retiring from public service at the end of his current term on the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Mick was born in Nyack, New York and later moved to Haverhill, Massachusetts, where he "unfortunately" became a fan of all things Boston, including the New England Patriots. In 1972, Mick graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and enlisted in the United States Navy. Later in 1999, he enrolled in the Naval Postgraduate School and earned a master's degree in Astronautical Engineering. During his time in the Navy, Mick became Commanding Officer of Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake, located in

Ridgecrest, California, which is what led him and his wife, Robynn, to Kern County, in 2004. He served as the NAWS China Lake Commanding Officer for 2 years.

After retiring from the Navy, Mick decided to continue his public service and successfully ran for and was elected to the Kern County Board of Supervisors, being sworn-in as the 1st District Supervisor in 2013. Over his tenure on the Board, Mick has been a consistent advocate for eastern Kern County, touting the importance of and opportunities related to the region's economic strengths and highly educated workforce, fighting to attract more and diversified businesses to the area. He has also helped lead the County response through difficult times, from the Erskine Fire to the July 2019 earthquakes that damaged Ridgecrest and NAWS China Lake. He has also been a vociferous advocate for NAWS China Lake, knowing that a healthy and robust mission at the base translates to the Ridgecrest community. And, Mick has never shied away from working on controversial, but important issues from reforming the Kern Medical Center to spear heading water conservation in the Indian Wells Valley following enactment of a state law on groundwater sustainability.

Over the years, Mick has been a good friend and advisor with his pulse on the Ridgecrest and northeastern Kern County. Using the skills he developed during his time in the U.S. Navy, Mick has always impressed me with his acumen, including the ability to quickly weigh issues, size-up the impacts to the community, and make a decision. And for anyone who knows Mick, once he makes a decision, he doggedly follows through working to persuade and promote the policy in his trademark accent—a combination of the Boston, Kern County, and western lexicons, with a smattering of military jargon thrown in for good measure—which is renown throughout our community.

I thank Mick for his years of service to our community, both as the Commanding Officer of NAWS China Lake and later as a Kern County Supervisor. Although Mick is taking a step back from his role in public service, I am confident that he will continue to lend his time and expertise to many of the causes that he holds dear. I wish him well as he begins this new chapter of his life, and I know that he is looking forward to spending more time with Robynn, and their three sons, Wes, Paddy, and Jeff, and their families.

RECOGNIZING LANGLEY RESIDENTIAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BETSY SCHATZ

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Langley Residential Executive Director Betsy Schatz for the service she has provided to our developmental disability community for more than three decades.

The Langley Residential Support Services is a non-profit organization and was founded in 1983 by three churches in McLean, Virginia. It has since continued to expand its reach across the county to help as many people as possible. In fact, Langley now has 15 fulltime

employees, 14 part-time employees and approximately 30 volunteers who provide support and services to adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

For the past 36 years, Langley has been helping families ensure that their adult child, sister, brother or other loved one with a developmental disability has a home to call his or her own. Langley Residential Support Services is dedicated to the mission that all people, regardless of developmental disabilities, have the right to live in dignity and as independently as possible—allowing all to participate as fully as possible in our society.

Since 1988, Betsy Schatz has been at the forefront of the great work and growth of the organization. For 31 years she has been a passionate advocate for people with developmental disabilities and is a true leader in our community. Under her stewardship Langley has been able to expand their assistance to six residential homes, several community drop-in services, and provides numerous other resources to benefit its clients and their families. Langley is a pioneer in this field and assisted more than 50 individuals in the last year alone.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Langley Residential Executive Director Betsy Schatz and in thanking her for her tireless efforts and dedication. She and her team strive to ensure that those with developmental disabilities have fair opportunities and a quality of life that all people deserve. I wish Executive Director Betsy Schatz and Langley Residential Support Services continued success in fulfilling their admirable mission.

IN HONOR OF ADAM EISEN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adam Eisen who served on the Half Moon Bay City Council for four years, the last year as Mayor. Mayor Eisen is one of the most energetic and optimistic public servants with whom I've had the honor to work.

When Adam ran for city council in 2016, he would have never imagined the challenges the year 2020 would present him while he was mayor of this beautiful coastal town of 13,000. He had to respond to a global pandemic not seen in a century, the resulting economic downturn, devastating wildfires ravaging California communities, and a national social justice movement demanding racial equity.

Adam was a regular presence on weekly county briefings that included more than 200 public officials from school districts, cities, the county, the state and the federal government. In weekly newsletters, Adam relayed much of that information about Covid-19 to residents, from case numbers to testing to business closures, school closures and beach closures. In the early days of the pandemic during the stay at home order, the entire county of San Mateo flocked to the coast to get away and get outside. Local beaches and parking lots resembled Times Square during New Year's Eve. Safety concerns motivated Adam to initiate a five mile from home shelter in place order for the county. As an avid surfer and outdoors enthusiast, this was counterintuitive, but Adam